

February 17, 2004

D.T.E. 03-88F

Investigation by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy on its Own Motion, pursuant to G.L. c. 164 §§ 1A(a), 1B(d), 94; and 220 C.M.R. § 11.04, into the Costs that Should Be Included in Default Service Rates for Western Massachusetts Electric Company.

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#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

On January 20, 2004, Western Massachusetts Electric Company ("WMECo" or "Company"), in compliance with Costs to Be Included in Default Service Rates, D.T.E. 03-88 (2003), filed for approval by Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department"), cost components that the Company proposes to be included in its calculation of default service rates. The Department will review the filing to determine, among other things, if it is consistent with G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a), 1B(d), and 94; 220 C.M.R. § 11.04(9)(c); D.T.E.03-88 and Procurement of Default Service, D.T.E. 02-40-B (2003). The Department docketed WMECo's filing as D.T.E. 03-88F.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Company's filing at 10:00 a.m. on **Thursday, March 11, 2004**, at the Department's offices - One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110. Following the public hearing, the Department will conduct a procedural conference.

Any person who wishes to submit written comments may do so by filing an original and five (5) copies of such comments with: Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, no later than the close of business **Monday, March 15, 2004**.

Any person seeking to intervene in this investigation must file an original and five (5) copies of a written petition for leave to intervene or to participate in this proceeding no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) **Tuesday, March 2, 2004** with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110.

A petition to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 1.03. Receipt by the Department -- not mailing -- constitutes filing and determines whether a petition is timely filed. A late-filed petition may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver. To be allowed, a petition under 220 C.M.R. 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10.

All written pleadings or comments must also be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to [dte.efiling@state.ma.us](mailto:dte.efiling@state.ma.us), and [john.geary@state.ma.us](mailto:john.geary@state.ma.us) or (2) on a 3.5" floppy diskette, IBM-compatible format. The text of the e-mail or the diskette label must specify: (1) an easily identifiable case caption; (2) docket number; (3) name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (4) a brief descriptive title or document (e.g., comments or petition to intervene). The electronic filing should also include the name, title and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in either Corel Word Perfect (naming the document with a ".wpd" suffix) or in Microsoft Word, (naming the document with a ".doc" suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. Documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's Website, <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>.

A copy of the Company's filing is on file at the Department's offices, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, for public view during business hours. The Company's filing is also posted on the Department's Website. Copies of the filing are also on file for public view at WMECo, 174 Brush Hill Avenue, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01090. Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing should contact Stephen Klionsky, Esq., at (617) 748-5140. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact John J. Geary, Hearing Officer, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, at (617) 305-3616.

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ORDER OF NOTICE

D.T.E. 03-88F

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Western Massachusetts Electric Company ("Company") shall, no later **Monday, February 23, 2004**, give notice of said hearing by publication of the attached Notice of Public Hearing and Procedural Conference in the Boston Globe or the Boston Herald. The Company shall also serve a copy of the notice on the Chairmen, Board of Selectmen, Mayors, Town Clerks and City Clerks of the towns and cities in the Company's service area, post a copy of the notice in each town or city hall in the Company's service area until the comment period has expired, provide actual notice to any person who has filed a request for notice with the Company, and provide a copy of this notice to all participants in Procurement of Default Service, D.T.E. 02-40 (2002); Western Massachusetts Electric Company, D.T.E. 97-120-E (2000); and the attached list of Competitive Suppliers/Electricity Brokers registered with the Department. The Company shall make return of service and proof of publication at the time of the public hearing.

By Order of the Department,

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MARY L. COTTRELL, SECRETARY